

From: LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>

Sent on: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 3:11:21 AM

To: LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>; Watson, Hilary<Hilary.Watson@vermont.gov>; Melamed, Marisa<Marisa.Melamed@vermont.gov>; Barrett, Susan<Susan.Barrett@vermont.gov>; Foster, Owen<Owen.Foster@vermont.gov>; Holmes, Jessica A.<Jessica.A.Holmes@vermont.gov>; Lunge, Robin<Robin.Lunge@vermont.gov>; Murman, David<David.Murman@vermont.gov>; Walsh, Thom<Thom.Walsh@vermont.gov>; Berube, Alena<Alena.Berube@vermont.gov>; AHS - Health Care Reform<AHS.HealthCareReform@vermont.gov>

Subject: Public Comment: Community Engagement: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167 2024-07-30T03:11:20Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 7/30/2024 3:11:20 AM

Name: Cheryl Van Epps

Affiliation: not applicable

Town/City: Essex Town

Topic: Community Engagement: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167

Comment: Why aren't we (our medical leadership) discussing a National Single Payer Health Service Program? Just as I would never turn to an economist for doctoring, I would never go to a doctor to fix a financial or economic issue. I believe you and your colleagues overstep your education and training qualifications. I also suspect there is an underlying financial incentive as a reason that no one is mentioning this popular alternative to our current predatory, capitalist "health" system. What we Patients are experiencing: too Early Release/ Discharge which is the equivalent to Patient Dumping.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFJsFdgMkYE&list=PL_b37gS9bTWINuk5m9m_AFNSbn1sy2tPs I turned to real economists to answer my question: why weren't there enough beds at UVMHC to move me into to provide me the post-operative care that I needed? For years I've listened to the statements that Drs. Bumsted and Leffler made in the newspaper articles and heard almost exactly what is written on Teletracking's corporate website: promises of cost cutting and patient flow efficiency. These same words were repeated this afternoon's GMCB Public Comments session, making me think that those who seek our public comments and are designing our system "transformation" are under the influence of corporate interests in the healthcare industry sector. We are quite familiar with the political strategy to underfund/ defund a system- a set up for failure- in order to make the false claim that government is too inefficient and ineffective to run the system and that we need corporations to move in to provide a business model-driven services, privatization, which syphons federal money to corporate profits instead of providing patients care. If we were REALLY serious about system transformation, we would be open to exploring real alternatives instead of pooh poohing them without rationale. (2 min video) Alan Greenspan explains to Paul Ryan that the US Govt can pay for any program that Congress enacts. <https://youtu.be/DNCZHAQnfGU?si=i7cWKJag47Spp1c8> Is that tax money that the Fed is spending? "No. It's not tax money." Former Fed Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke explains in a (2 min clip) 60 min interview. <https://youtu.be/yDQOIkPwgvI?si=wJouaKzJ3oLIPdW0> 5 min video describing: What the National Deficit really is, How the federal government fiscally operates, and Why the federal government should and could invest in the American People. (@2:10; @3:15; @3:48 All federal spending is in the form of newly created US Dollars) https://youtu.be/d_udbs-wuDA?si=HPwOLC-Uw1TyEGM4 Dr. Stephanie Kelton's credentials: studied how the federal government operates for over a decade and published peer-reviewed papers on the same subject; Economics Advisor to US Sen. Bernie Sanders; Economics Professor, Stony Brook University; Author, NYT Bestseller The Deficit Myth; Politico's List of 50 most influential people in US policy debate; Forbes' May 31, 2020 article "5 Economists Redefining... Everything. Oh Yes, And They're Women"; 2024 Documentary

Movie Finding the Money. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JpZZcD8C4M> (@1:30) US Rep. Yarmuth discusses how our federal government acts as our currency issuer, spending money into existence. <https://youtu.be/RvlpF6FZkLI?si=NT9R5DMN9-kdmWpv> If our medical leadership do not understand the basics of how our US Government operates, you cannot envision the possibilities nor how our health system could be fully funded. Your ignorance fails us Vermonters. Nearly 1000 Vermonters lost their lives and 1 out of every 4 Vermonters were exposed to Coronavirus-19 placing them at risk (long haulers are facing long term neurologic effects, brain damage) thanks to health leaders' decisions to reopen VT for business before it was truly safe. It demonstrates how little you value the lives of our first responders, direct care and essential workers. This same sentiment was reflected in the "cobbler's children go without shoes" comment tonight.

Post Comment: Yes